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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 439

By Herron

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Mr. Brian L. Brown of
Martin.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the untimely passing of Mr. Brian L. Brown, the Assistant Director of Student Life for Campus Recreation at the University of Tennessee at Martin; and

WHEREAS, Brian was born on November 11, 1967, in Crossville, the son of Mitchell E. and Claris Whittenburg Brown; he was a distinguished graduate of Cumberland County High School, the University of Tennessee at Martin, where he earned his bachelor's degree, and the University of Northern Colorado, where he received his master's degree; and

WHEREAS, Brian served for one year as a student intern in Campus Recreation at Martin before being named Assistant Director on July 20, 1992, by Chancellor Emeritus Margaret Perry; and

WHEREAS, by Brian's actions and good deeds, it is quite evident that he loved the Martin community and UT-Martin, and that he was a highly respected member of the combined community; he was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who delighted in assisting his peers and the university's students; and

WHEREAS, he was also a member of Dr. Nick Dunagan's, Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs staff; Dr. Dunagan remembered Brian as an outstanding young man, and an outstanding young man he most assuredly was; Brian was a vital part of the Martin community, as evidenced by his meritorious service as chairman of the Weakley County chapter of the American Red Cross and as a community leader and catalyst for numerous other projects; and

WHEREAS, one community project in which Brian was heavily involved was the greenway project that is currently on the City of Martin's planning table; the greenway project, now entitled "The Brian Brown Memorial Greenway", is envisioned to be a linear park and transportation corridor connecting key points of the Martin community and allowing for safe movement of pedestrians, cyclists, and equestrians; designed to be attractive and park-like, it's primary purpose is to provide a method of safe non-motorized transportation; and

WHEREAS, quite the visionary, Brian knew that the greenway that he proposed for the city would enhance the interest of businesses and individuals looking to relocate to Martin, and that the greenway is the type of civic improvement that enhances the identity of the community by indicating to visitors that Martin is a city moving forward, not backward; and

WHEREAS, he also realized that the greenway would be an ideal place for children and families to play and exercise; Brian had a deep love for the Martin community and for Martin's children, and he wanted to ensure a high level of safety at the greenway for Martin's citizens, whether they were biking, roller blading, skateboarding, running, or walking; and

WHEREAS, Martin Police Chief J.D. Sanders noted in a letter that memorialized Mr. Brown, "Even though Brian's children were too young to participate in organized youth sports, that didn't stop Brian from giving of himself to the many teams in Martin. He simply did anything asked of him, and many other things not asked, and maybe not even known. He wasn't interested in the credit....he wanted kids to have opportunities."; and

WHEREAS, Brian Brown was an active and devout member of the First United Methodist Church, where he faithfully worshiped and served his Lord and Savior in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Brian Brown was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, while on this earth, Brian enjoyed the loving companionship of his loving wife, Laura Lawrence Brown, and was the proud and devoted father of Georgia Lee Brown and Boone Lawrence Brown; and

WHEREAS, Brian will also be sorely missed by his parents, Mitchell and Claris Brown, his brother, Gary Brown, his sisters, Linda Anderson and Shelia Hawn, his friends, colleagues and neighbors, and the entire Martin community, as well as his neighbors and friends in his hometown of Crossville; and

WHEREAS, Brian leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, as one of his many admirers has stated: Brian was a "role model's role model. He was unselfish, dedicated, energetic, focused, and had such a vision for life that is rarely seen in others"; and

WHEREAS, in a recent newspaper article, written by a close boyhood friend of Brian's, and memorializing the great friend he has lost, Brian is described as a "teacher of life, a one in a million guy, who was always enthusiastic, always positive, and always fun. He enjoyed competing and playing, but he gained much more satisfaction by helping others participate, play, and learn. Brian Brown lived more during his 32 years than many people live in a lifetime."; and

WHEREAS, the autobiographical last line of his personal web page, which was under construction at the time of his passing, stated, "Pray hard, play hard, work hard, and love your family." Brian Brown performed each of these worthy tasks to the fullest and more during his all too brief time in this world; the State of Tennessee and our citizens will surely miss Brian, as he has made this state a better place in which to live and raise a family; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional citizen and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we honor the memory of Mr. Brian L. Brown, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Brian Brown.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.